

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and
10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.J. Res. 71—FY 1999 Continuing Resolution

H.R. 3085—Considering the President's Tax Increase and User Fee Proposals

H.R. 1714—Electronic Signatures in Global and National (E-SIGN) Act

**H.Res. 279—Congratulating Henry Aaron on the 25th Anniversary of
Breaking the Home Run Record**

H.R. 1887—Punishing the Depiction of Animal Cruelty

H.R. 3046—Banking and Housing Agency Accountability Preservation Act

H.R. 1497—Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act

H.R. 1180—Work Incentives Improvement Act

**Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 3064 (FY 2000 District of Columbia
Appropriations Act)**



H.J. Res. 71—FY 1999 Continuing Resolution

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.J. Res. 71 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule providing for one hour of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.J. Res. 71 provides temporary funding—beginning October 22, 1999 and lasting until either October 29 or when the relevant appropriations bill is signed into law, whichever comes first—for federal programs for which the president has not signed a regular appropriations bill. The continuing resolution funds ongoing projects at current FY 1999 levels. It imposes currently existing terms and conditions on funding, prohibits any new projects or initiatives, and restricts high initial year funding distributions to states, foreign countries, or federal grantees. Recently, the House passed—and the president

signed—an extension (H.J. Res. 68) to fund the government through October 21, 1999. The joint resolution contains language to guarantee that certain mandatory payments (*e.g.*, Social Security checks) due on November 1 continue to be made.

The joint resolution also includes a number of special provisions for the duration of the continuing resolution, such as:

- * restricting disbursements for contributions to international organizations;
- * extending the authority for several programs such as (1) Radio Free Asia, (2) the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and (3) the federal flood insurance program;
- * restricting initial obligations for most major activities of the District of Columbia;
- * allowing agencies to spend funding to continue fixing the Year 2000 computer problem;
- * allowing increased obligations for census activities;
- * continuing the FY 1999 funding level for accounts funded under the FY 1999 Commerce/Justice/State appropriations bill that will change in the FY 2000 measure because of State Department reorganization; and
- * continuing the authority of the Export-Import Bank to meet in the absence of a quorum.

A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. H.J. Res. 71 was introduced by Mr. Young (FL) on October 18.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time. However, press reports have indicated that he will sign another extension.



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following seven bills under suspension of the rules after it considers H.J. Res. 71. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 3085—Considering the President’s Tax Increase and User Fee Proposals includes \$19.2 billion in discretionary spending offsets (*i.e.*, tax increases as well as new and increased user fees) that were outlined in the president’s FY 2000 budget. Among the offsets to be considered, the bill (1) increases the tax on cigarettes from 24 cents to 94 cents per pack (this proposal will provide an additional \$8 billion in revenue); (2) reinstates taxes on producers and importers of petroleum and certain chemicals that are dedicated to the Superfund trust fund that expired in 1995 (\$1.5 billion); (3) converts the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) into a performance-based operation funded in part by new user fees estab-

lished by the FAA administrator (\$1.2 billion); (4) replaces the current harbor maintenance excise tax with a cost-based user fee (\$494 million); and (5) establishes additional Medicare premiums for early retirees and displaced workers aged 55-61 (\$1.3 billion). The bill was introduced by Mr. Terry and Mr. DeMint and was not reported by a House committee.

H.R. 1714—Electronic Signatures in Global and National (E-SIGN) Act establishes a single, nationwide standard for electronic signatures and records. Electronic signatures on digital documents assure a recipient of a document's origin and authenticity through digital codes specific to each party and ensure that a contract or agreement formed online has legal effect. The bill does not mandate a particular type of authentication or specify the types of businesses that should be permitted to offer these services, leaving such decisions to the marketplace. Thus, the bill is designed to prohibit states from discriminating in favor of a specific type of electronic technology or the manufacturer of that technology. *Please Note:* the bill managers may offer an amendment to address the Judiciary Committee's views on state preemption and record retention; however, at press time no agreement had been reached on any such amendment.

CBO estimates enactment of H.R. 1714 will cost approximately \$1 million annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The bill does not affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. The Commerce Committee reported H.R. 1714 by voice vote on August 5, 1999.

H.Res. 279—Congratulating Henry Aaron on the 25th Anniversary of Breaking the Home Run Record congratulates Henry 'Hank' Aaron on his great achievement in baseball and recognizes him as one of the greatest professional baseball players of all time. In addition, the resolution commends Hank Aaron for his commitment to young people and his many contributions to society. The measure was introduced by Mr. Chambliss and Mr. Lewis (GA) and reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on September 30, 1999.

H.R. 1887—Punishing the Depiction of Animal Cruelty amends current law to prohibit, and establish criminal penalties for, knowingly creating, selling, or possessing a depiction of animal cruelty with the intent to place the depiction in interstate or foreign commerce for commercial gain. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gallegly *et al.* and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 22-4 on October 13, 1999.

H.R. 3046—Banking and Housing Agency Accountability Preservation Act requires certain federal agencies to continue submitting approximately 50 reports on banking and housing matters. The 1995 Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act (*P.L. 104-66*) terminates—on December 31, 1999—certain annual, semi-annual, and other periodic reporting requirements, approximately half of which are under the jurisdiction of the Banking Committee. Among the reports slated for elimination are the semi-annual Humphrey-Hawkins testimony delivered by the Federal Reserve Board chairman on the state of the nation's economy and the Federal Reserve's annual survey of bank fees and services. The bill was introduced by Mr. Leach *et al.* and was not reported by a House committee.

H.R. 1497—Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act establishes a four-year pilot program to allow a private organization that has received financial assistance under the women's business center program, that also is either in the final year of a five-year project or has completed the project, to apply for grants for an additional five-year period. The bill increases the authorization for FYs 2000-2003 for women's business centers but repeals authorization for subsequent years. Specifically, the bill authorizes (1) \$12 million for FY 2000; (2) \$12.8 million for FY 2001; (3) \$13.7 million for FY 2002; and (4) \$14.5 million for FY 2003. Finally, the measure requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to determine the viability of each center and allows the SBA to use a small portion of authorized amounts for administra-

tive purposes. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 1497 will increase net outlays by \$2 million over FYs 2000-2004. The bill was introduced by Mr. Udall (NM) *et al.* and was reported by the Small Business Committee by voice vote on October 5, 1999.

H.R. 1180—Work Incentives Improvement Act, as amended with the text of H.R. 3070, allows disabled recipients of certain Social Security disability benefits to return to work while retaining their government-sponsored health insurance. Currently, after a nine-month trial work period, a disabled worker who receives Social Security disability benefits but earns more than \$700 per month will lose his or her Medicare health coverage. Workers who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits will lose their Medicaid coverage once earnings reach the basic SSI benefit level. The bill allows workers with disabilities the option to work and keep their health coverage. This legislation creates consumer choice in employment preparation and placement services to reduce the dependency on government assistance and creates a new payment system to reward results by paying service providers part of the benefit savings when disabled individuals leave the rolls for work. It also creates options for individual states to allow the working disabled to purchase Medicaid coverage.

Specifically, the bill (1) creates new options for states to allow individuals with disabilities to purchase Medicaid coverage; (2) extends the current period of eligibility for Medicare coverage for working disabled individuals; and (3) establishes a return to work “ticket” program to allow individuals to seek vocational rehabilitation and other services necessary to obtain and retain employment.

CBO estimates that enactment of the bill will add to the total federal surplus by \$18 million over the FY 2000-2004 period. Of that amount, the bill will result in a \$168 million increase in the off-budget Social Security surplus, offset by a \$150 million decrease in the on-budget surplus. The bill affects direct spending and receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Assuming appropriation of the necessary sums, the bill also will result in new discretionary spending of \$565 million for the FY 2000-2004 period. The Ways and Means Committee reported H.R. 3070 by a vote of 33-1 on October 14, 1999. The Commerce Committee reported a similar measure (H.R. 1180, introduced by Mr. Lazio on March 18, 1999) by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #30, October 15, 1999.



Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 3064 (FY 2000 District of Columbia Appropriations Act)

Floor Situation: Mr. Istook or a designee is expected to offer a motion to go to conference on H.R. 3064 after the House finishes considering the scheduled suspensions. A motion to instruct may be made immediately after this request and before the chair appoints conferees. Instructions are considered the prerogative of the minority and are debatable for one hour.

Summary: The motion, if agreed to, will establish a House-Senate conference to resolve differences between H.R. 3064, which passed the House by a vote 211-205 on October 14, and the Senate version, which passed by unanimous consent on October 15. Once agreed to, the motion permits the chair to appoint conferees. Details of a possible motion to instruct were unavailable at press time.

H.R. 3064 is similar to the conference report to H.R. 2587, the original D.C. appropriations measure that was vetoed by the president. The House passed H.R. 2587 by a vote of 333-92 on July 29, 1999. The Senate approved S. 1283 by unanimous consent on August 2. The House adopted the conference report to H.R. 2587 by a vote of 208-206 on September 9, and the Senate approved it by a vote of 52-39 on September 16. President Clinton vetoed the measure on September 28.

Views: The Republican leadership strongly supports the motion to go to conference and opposes any motion to instruct conferees that would weaken the position of House negotiators.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #24, September 3, 1999; and #22, July 23, 1999.



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